

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): KATO, et al.

Serial No.: Divisional of application
Serial No. 09/177,495

Filed: September 7, 1999

For: VACUUM PROCESSING APPARATUS AND OPERATING METHOD THEREFOR

Group:

Examiner:

G. Heron
4/Pre
10/27/99

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

September 7, 1999

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application, prior to examination thereof, as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, delete lines 1-8 in their entirety, and substitute therefor the following:

--This application is a Divisional application of application Serial No. 09/177,495, filed October 23, 1998, which is a Continuation application of application Serial No. 09/061,062, filed April 16, 1998, which is a Continuation application of application Serial No. 08/882,731, filed June 26, 1997, which is a Divisional application of application Serial No. 08/593,870, filed January 30, 1996, which is a

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